

STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. A. LOFTUS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

JOHN WILSON, D.P.A. (Lond.), M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.,
A.M.I.P.H.E.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Smoke Inspector.

Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as applied to
Buildings and Public Works.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

K. BLOWER, M.P.H.I.A.

G. CROWE, M.P.H.I.A., A.R.S.H.

Chief Clerk:

M. COLLINGWOOD.

Assistant Clerk:

E. MARKLEW.

Handyman:

S. WRIGHT.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1956

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of Brownhills Urban District for the year 1956.

The mortality rates and incidences of infectious diseases are reasonably satisfactory. The infantile mortality rate suffered a temporary setback for which it is difficult to give a reason. Heart Diseases and Cancer are the two most common causes of death and these figures are in conformity with those for the country as a whole.

The case of diphtheria caused some concern, and three other children were admitted to hospital and kept under observation at the same time. The need to maintain a high proportion of immunised children is apparent, for a flare up in the number of cases could easily occur.

Immunisation against poliomyelitis has commenced, and it is anticipated that the rate of immunisation will be increased to cover a wider range of school children as rapidly as is commensurate with supplies of vaccine.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for the interest they have shown in the work of this department and to the Chief Public Health Inspector and members of the staff for their ever willing and whole-hearted co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. LOFTUS,
Medical Officer of Health.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The Brownhills Urban District is in the southern half of the County of Staffordshire on the fringe of the Birmingham conurbation.

The altitude of the district varies from 420 feet to 600 feet above sea level.

The subsoil is mainly of sand and gravel overlying coal seams.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

For many years mining was the principal industry and supporting industries were inadequately represented. Recent years have witnessed a change in this pattern, for the Council have wisely encouraged new industries (e.g. by the development of an industrial site), and so provided a greater range of local employment. This policy has been to the advantage of individuals and to the district as a whole.

AREA AND RATEABLE VALUE.

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £138,877. The sum represented by a penny rate is £533.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's figure for the estimated population is 21,880 (mid-year). The provisional population according to the 1951 census was 21,482, which showed an increase of 3,114 over the 1931 census. The 1951 census showed that there were 10,759 males and 10,723 females. The density of population is 3.5 per acre.

HOUSING.

The following is a summary of houses built during 1956:

By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	134
Permanent Houses by the Local Authority	...				218

BIRTHS, 1956.

Live Births—

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	188	177	365
Illegitimate	...	...	7	4	11
			Total	...	376

Still Births—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	9 ... 12
Illegitimate	— ... 1 ... 1
			Total ... 13

The number of live births gives a birth rate of 17.18 per thousand of the population. The area comparability factor for births is 0.96 and this gives a corrected birth rate of 16.49.

Still births numbered 13. This gives a still birth rate of 0.59 per thousand of the population, or a still birth rate of 34.57 per thousand total births (live and still).

DEATHS, 1956.

Deaths numbered 224. 124 males and 100 females.

This gives a crude death rate of 10.23 per thousand of the population and a standard rate of 13.81 per thousand (the area comparability factor is 1.35).

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion Nil.

Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still)

births Nil.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age ... 14

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... 37.23

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age ... 9

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... 23.93

There was one illegitimate death recorded.

The number and causes of deaths for 1956 are shown in the following tables:—

DEATHS, 1956.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	4	1	5
Tuberculosis, other ..	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ..	1	—	1
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ..	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	4	—	4
Malignant Neoplasm, breast ..	—	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ..	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	8	13	21
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	2	1	3
Diabetes ..	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	10	21	31
Coronary disease, angina ..	10	4	14
Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	4	6
Other heart disease ..	22	22	44
Other circulatory disease ..	1	4	5
Influenza ..	2	1	3
Pneumonia ..	9	1	10
Bronchitis ..	8	2	10
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	8	—	8
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	3	—	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	—	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ..	3	—	3
Hyperplasia of prostate ..	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ..	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	9	12	21
Motor vehicle accidents ..	2	—	2
All other accidents ..	7	1	8
Suicide ..	3	—	3
Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—
All causes ..	124	100	224

The death rate (per thousand of the population) for Tuberculosis is 0.23, for Influenza 0.14, for Pneumonia 0.46 and Bronchitis 0.46.

DEATHS—AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 & Over	Total
14	1	1	—	3	5	8	23	24	44	101	224

65% of the deaths occurred in persons over 80 years.

35% were under 80 years

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Disease	Under 1 Month	Months							Total
		1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12	
Acute toxæmia due to a fulminating pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Suprarenal insufficiency	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cardiac failure. Fallot's tetralogy	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Anencephaly	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cardiac failure due to Influenzal Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Haemorrhagic Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
								Total ..	14

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.

(Rates per 1,000 live births)

Year.	Number.	Rate.
1947	16	30.8
1948	16	40.7
1949	9	21.9
1950	17	43.7
1951	9	27.8
1952	10	29.7
1953	12	33.1
1954	11	30.4
1955	5	15.1
1956	14	37.23

It will be noted that the lower infantile mortality rate of 1955 has not been maintained. It is to be hoped that this somewhat disappointing rise will be only a temporary setback reminding us of the problems involved.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	Under 1 Year		1-5		5-10		10-15		15-20		20-30		30-40		40-50		50-60		60-70		70 and over		Total	
	Under	1 Year	1	5	1	5	1	5	1	5	1	5	1	5	1	5	1	5	1	5	1	5	1	
Measles	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Whooping Cough	6	43	40	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Scarlet Fever	4	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Pneumonia	1	..	2	..	..	3	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Erysipelas	1
Meningococcal Infection
Poliomyelitis
Diphtheria	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Puerperal Pyrexia
Polio Encephalitis
Paratyphoid Fever (B)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	4	30	65	30	10	10	20	7	..	..	..	..	181
Food Poisoning	8	3	1	1	..	5	1	..	..	..	20

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The case rates per thousand of the population in respect of certain infectious diseases are as follows.

Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0.78
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	4.11
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0.04
Measles	...	...	...	0.23
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1.06
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)	...	...	...	0.00
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	0.91
Dysentery	...	...	...	8.27

The high incidence of dysentery was due to an outbreak which spread through the schools in the district progressing from south to north. The number of notifications indicates that the standard of personal hygiene in this country is still well below the standard one could desire in a civilised community.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS IN 1956			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 „	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 „	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 30 „	—	4	1	—	1	1	—	—
30 to 40 „	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
40 to 50 „	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
50 to 60 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60 to 70 „	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
70 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	11	9	2	—	3	2	—	—

The following table shows the number of cases on the Register at the end of 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956 respectively:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	
1952	71	74	18	27	...	190
1953	81	87	14	23	...	205
1954	93	96	15	24	...	228
1955	92	87	17	23	...	219
1956	97	92	19	23	...	231

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Welfare, Maternity, School Health and Tuberculosis after-care services are under the control of the County Council. Within the general ambit of these services the appropriate clinics are held at places suitably accessible for the district.

The Home Help, Home Nursing and Ambulance services are also provided by the County Council.

HOSPITALS.

General: Walsall General and Walsall Manor Hospitals.

Maternity: There is one private maternity home situated in the area. The district is mostly served by Lichfield and Walsall Maternity Hospitals.

X-Ray facilities: At Hospitals and Mass Radiography Unit, Ambulance Station, Walsall.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Stafford branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting this, my Eleventh Annual Report on the work of the Department.

Slum clearance (although I don't consider the word "slum" is particularly apt) is in full swing, the slaughtering of animals has been decontrolled, the Food Hygiene Regulations of 1955 have been given their trial run, and the Clean Air Act, 1956 has received Royal Assent. We may feel that some of the law is not sufficiently specific, or that some of the requirements are not quite as stringent as we would like, but nevertheless one cannot but be impressed by the opportunities presented to a keen local authority desirous of improving the public health standards of the district it administers.

PART II — STAFF.

The staff is up to establishment strength (i.e., two additional inspectors), and this fortunate position is maintained due to the fact that the inspectors concerned have local attachments. It is well to realise that the national shortage of public health inspectors is such that their replacement, particularly at the present rates of pay (i.e., N.J.C. special grades for inspectors), would be most difficult.

Overtime has been necessary on meat inspection and Shops Act (closing hours) inspections.

The members of my staff have continued to show an ability and enthusiasm for their work so that the results of their efforts are self evident throughout this report. We may not be engaged in the handling of huge sums of money

or in controlling large contracts, but we do meet the people in their homes, in their work, in their shopping, and in their recreation. Behind the ensuing facts and figures of this report are the efforts of this Department to ensure that these activities can be pursued without danger to health.

PART III — WATER SUPPLY.

The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company provide the public water supply to the District. I am indebted to R. A. Robertson, Esq., Engineer-in-Chief of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company for the following statement on the water supply to the Urban District:—

- “ 1. The supply to the area has been satisfactory in respect of quality and quantity.
- 2. The supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is afforded from pumping stations situated outside the boundary of the Authority. All the waters as pumped are examined at regular intervals, both bacteriologically and chemically. Bacteriological samples are also examined of the raw waters where treatment is practised.

During 1956, 53 samples were examined from Sandhills Pumping Station all of which were free from coliform bacteria. Routine samples were examined from the Municipal Buildings at Brownhills, No. 1, High Street, Clayhanger and the Waterman's house, Norton Canes.

17 out of the 26 samples from the Municipal Buildings were free from coliform bacteria; 8 confirmed aero-genes and one intermediate bacteria.

17 out of 19 samples from Clayhanger were free from coliform bacteria, and the other two contained aero-genes and intermediate bacteria.

12 out of 13 samples from Norton Canes were free from coliform bacteria, one contained intermediate bacteria.

The supply to Coppice Road, Walsall Wood, was examined at frequent intervals and 139 out of 140 samples were free from coliform bacteria. The odd sample confirmed irregular bacteria only.

The average chemical results for 1956 of the tap samples from Waterman, Norton Canes and Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, were:—

	Norton Canes.		Brownhills.
pH	7.7		7.4
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	81	parts per million	118
Chloride (Cl)	14.8	"	26.9
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	3.2	"	7.3
Oxygen absorbed (3hr. at 27°C)	.12	"	.12
Temporary Hardness	76	"	113
Permanent Hardness	47	"	115
Total Hardness	123	"	228
Iron (Fe)	.02	"	.02
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	"	Nil
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	"	Nil
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	Nil	"	Nil
Free Cl.	.09	"	Nil

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being found in any of the samples examined.

4. Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. Special apparatus and staff are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised, following burst mains, etc., laying of new mains, and emptying of reservoirs. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

5. Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains:—

(a) direct to the houses	...	...	6616
(b) by means of standpipes	...	...	90
			6,706

The population is estimated by the company at 3.75 persons per house."

The sampling carried out by the Company has been supplemented by 160 samples taken for bacteriological examination by this Department. These samples have been taken from areas of the district which suffer from mining subsidence. Of this number 8 samples gave a b.coli count, but there was no evidence of contamination by faecal coli, and follow up samples were satisfactory.

The houses supplied from standpipes figure includes dwellings with a joint water supply in a detached wash-house. It is anticipated that these houses will be dealt with under the present 5 year slum clearance programme.

PART IV — SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Since the war the conversion of closets has proceeded steadily so that 450 conversions have been completed and the remaining pails or privies are in use either at isolated dwellings, or at houses in the 5 year slum clearance programme. This is a most satisfactory state of affairs which can be further improved by the owners of the isolated cottages deciding to give their tenants the benefits of twentieth century sanitary accommodation.

TABLE I — SEWER AVAILABLE.

District	Pails		Privies	
	To be converted	For H.A. action	To be converted	For H.A. action
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	—	14	—	9
Brownhills West	—	—	—	—
Walsall Wood	—	—	—	2
Shelfield and High Heath ...	—	—	—	—
Brownhills	—	8	—	—
Totals	—	22	—	11

TABLE II — SEWER NOT AVAILABLE.

District	Pails	Privies
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	40	25
Brownhills West	10	3
Walsall Wood	11	4
Shelfield and High Heath ...	3	1
Brownhills	7	1
Totals	71	34

PART V—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

(1) Brownhills, Brownhills West, Walsall Wood and Clayhanger are sewered to the Green Lane Works, Walsall Wood. Improvements continue to be made to these works and to the trunk sewers. Some of the work is necessitated by an increase in the amount of sewage, but the major portion of the alterations are required because of damage by mining subsidence.

The reconstruction of the sewerage system, so as to avoid the areas affected by mining subsidence, is an urgent necessity. The plans now approved by the Ministry envisages the provision of new main sewers, which will remove the present potential danger to health caused by the various and frequent overflows and seepages of sewage at several points on the existing system. 33 samples of the sewage effluent and of the Fordbrook (which receives the effluent) have been submitted for chemical analysis. The dilution of the sewage effluent by the water in the brook is small, as the brook course carries only a relatively small volume of water. A good standard of effluent is therefore essential.

(2) The village of Norton Canes has its own sewerage system and disposal works of recent construction. Of the 138 houses not on the water carriage system, 88 are in the Norton Canes ward. This is due to the widely scattered nature of some of the dwellings in this part of the district.

(3) The scheme for providing a sewer and pumping station for the 59 houses at Sandhills is now completed, and steps have been taken to ensure that all houses are connected to the new system. Under Table 3, Statutory Notices, the Section 39, Public Health Act Notices refer to this property.

PART VI — REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection and disposal of refuse is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor. Any complaints we receive as to accumulations of refuse are referred to the appropriate officer and are speedily dealt with.

Disposal is by tipping. Nothing less than controlled tipping is acceptable from a public health point of view and it is hoped that the condition of the tips will continue to improve. The Council may have to budget for an increase in expenditure in this direction.

A total of 694 houses have been supplied with new dustbins during the financial year.

PART VII.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Total Visits	8,291
Complaints received	310
Houses inspected—Public Health Act	1,993
—Housing Act	384
—Overcrowding	31
—Verminous or Dirty	29
—Improvement Grants	50
—Subsidence Damage	54
—Certificates of Disrepair	13
Caravans	196
Butchers' Shops	81
Fish Fryers	94
Bakelhouses	19
Slaughterhouses	23
Food Premises	114
Meat Inspection	739
Other Food Inspection	13
Shops Act	105
Dustbins	110
Ashpits	35
Rcfuse Tips	28
Water Closets	82
Pails	31
Privies	30
Cesspools	68
Drains—new and /or tested	23
—existing and/or defective	84
—cleansed	99
Rodent Control	273
Keeping of Animals	4
Atmospheric Pollution	29
Petrol Storage	24
Factories	142
Infectious Disease Enquiries	374
Disinfections and Disinfestations	70
Miscellaneous	259
Samples—water, bacteriological	160
water, chemical	33
—ice-cream	22
—faeces	2,341
Swabs—food hygiene	32

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices brought forward from 1955	67
Informal Notices served	110
Informal Notices complied with	101*
Informal Notices carried forward to 1957	76

* Includes 32 superseded by Statutory Notices.

STATUTORY NOTICES

TABLE III.

	Brought forward from 1955	Served	Complied with	Carried forward to 1957
Section 7, Factories Act, 1937	—	1	—	1
Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	1	15	2	14
Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936	1	5	5	1
Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936	3	1	3	1
Sections 92, 93, P. Health Act, 1936	23	54	42	35
Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	—	1	1	—
Totals	28	77	53	52

PART VIII — HOUSING.

The housing slum clearance programme is getting into its stride. The increase in time spent on housing activities has necessitated an adjustment in the amount of time spent on other public health functions.

The majority of houses are not "slums" in the popular conception of the word, but they are manifestly unfit for human habitation. The occupier often resents the implications of the word "slum," particularly when they have proudly carried out frequent decoration of the interior. Some occupiers do not find the attraction of a new and modern council house sufficiently strong to make them enthusiastic about their eventual ejection from an unfit house, particularly when the increase in rent is considered.

The remainder of this section shows the progress that has been made with the slum clearance programme.

Individual Unfit Houses.

Twenty-seven houses were reported to the council under the terms of Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, as being incapable of repair at reasonable expense.

They were as follows:—

- 25, 27, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
- 28, 30, Norton East Road, Norton Canes.
- 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125 and 127, Mill Road, Shelfield.
- 95, Cannock Road, Heath Hayes.
- 17, Walsall Road, Norton Canes.
- 36, 38, 40, Hall Lane, Walsall Wood.
- 9, Norton Terrace, Norton Canes.
- 67, 69, Green Lane, Shelfield.
- Living Vans (2), Hednesford Road, Norton Canes.
- 15, Lichfield Road, Brownhills.
- 6, Washbrook Lane, Norton Canes.

Clearance Areas.

Eighty-four houses were dealt with by Clearance Area procedure.

Clearance Area No. 9:

29-41 and 41a, Pier Street,
Brownhills.

Clearance Area No. 10:

4-44 (even), Ogley Road,
Brownhills

Clearance Area No. 11:

83, 85, 87, Walsall Road,
Walsall Wood.

Clearance Area No. 13:

43, 45, 46, 47, 49, School
Road, Norton Canes.

Clearance Area No. 14:

36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 53,
Pear Tree Lane,
Brownhills.

Clearance Area No. 15:

82, 84, 86, Lichfield Road,
Sandhills.

Brownhills No. 9

Compulsory Purchase
Order.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 16:

1, 3, Silver Street,
Brownhills.

106,-126 (even), High
Street, Brownhills.

Clearance
Order.

Part of No. 12
Compulsory Purchase
Order.

Clearance Area No. 17:

267, 269, 271, High Street,
Brownhills.

Purchased by
agreement.

Clearance Area No. 18:

35-61 (odd), Red Lion
Lane, Little Norton.

Clearance Order.

The following is an analysis of the above work under the Housing Acts, along with the repair work carried out under the Public Health Act:—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	221
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	2,377
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	111

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers

109

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...

1

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—

(a) by Owners

1

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners

0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied

110

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) by Owners

47

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners

0

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...

27

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...

23

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...

0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...

0

(e) Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—

Number of dwellings closed under Section 10 (1)

2

Summary of Demolition Procedure.

Number of individual unfit houses reported to the Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Number of individual unfit houses demolished	...						23
Number of houses dealt with in Clearance Areas							84
Number of houses in Clearance Areas demolished							22

Improvement Grants.

Seventeen applications were received for grant. All applications were for individual houses, and of these 17 it was found necessary to refuse 2. The total cost of improvements was £4,041, and the total grant was £2,020 (i.e 50% in each case). 14 of the approved applications were for owner-occupiers, and only 1 was in connection with tenanted accommodation.

Applications are received in the Public Health Department and are investigated to ensure that (a) the house will measure up to the standard of fitness; and (b) it will be in a good state of repair. The Engineer and Surveyor values the proposed works of improvement and this valuation is submitted to the Health Committee for decision.

Certificates of Disrepair.

A further 3 certificates of disrepair were issued, making a total of 33 under the Housing Rents & Repairs Act, 1954. One certificate was revoked.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Mr. C. R. Closs, F.I.Hsg., Housing Manager has supplied the following information in respect of Council Houses as at 31st December, 1956:—

Prior to the late War:—

Act under which constructed		Bedrooms			Bungalows			Total
		Two	Three	Four	Prefabs	Persons	Flats	
1919	...	—	250	—	—	—	—	250
1923	...	—	154	—	—	—	—	154
1924	...	92	158	—	—	—	—	250
1925	...	102	344	30	—	6	—	482
1930		44	56	30	—	—	—	130
Totals		238	962	60	—	6	—	1,266

Post War:—

Year constructed	Two	Three	Four	Bungalows			Total
				Prefabs	Old Persons	Flats	
1946	...	—	1	—	50	—	51
1947	...	4	36	—	—	—	40
1948	...	4	53	—	80	—	137
1949	...	2	39	—	13	8	62
1950	...	—	57	1	—	—	58
1951	...	8	48	—	—	—	56
1952	...	6	58	—	—	—	64
1953	...	10	86	1	—	—	97
1954	...	18	111	1	—	—	130
1955	...	30	175	—	—	—	213
1956	...	26	174	—	—	18	218
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	108	838	3	143	26	8	1,126
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

PART IX — FOOD HYGIENE.

Efforts to improve the standard of hygiene in food premises have received a rejuvenating injection by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. We cannot spend all the time we would like on this problem, but we must strive to prevent the Food Hygiene Regulations being just another piece of legislation on the statute book, useful in case of emergency. The efforts to produce clean, safe food must be positive, and clean (and safe) food can be produced by clean persons with clean habits.

Talks, illustrated by film strips have been given to various organisations and to some of the schools. We would like to extend our activities, and enquiries from organisations interested in clean food will be welcome.

Systematic inspections are being made of food premises, and in particular of butchers' shops and cafes. Many shopkeepers have not realised the scope of the Regulations, but it is hoped that rapid progress will be made towards a higher standard.

Seven notices have been served requiring alterations to premises so as to comply with the new standard.

Types of Food Premises.

Bakehouses	...	...	5
Butchers Shops	...	...	24
Wholesale Premises	...	...	1
Ice Cream Sales	...	...	89
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	1
Fish Fryers	...	...	12
General Stores	...	...	186
Cafes	...	...	11
Public Houses	...	...	34
<hr/>			<hr/>
Total	...	363	<hr/>

Only one of the bakehouses is in use. This gradual decline in the number of bakehouses is a national trend, and the small man is gradually being eliminated from the trade.

Ice Cream.

It will be noted that 89 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream and one business is registered for the manufacture of a hot-mix ice cream.

22 samples of ice cream were submitted for submission to the Methylene Blue Test, and all proved to be in Grade 1.

Manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc.

12 premises attached to butchers shops are registered for the manufacture of sausages and cooked meats, and 12 premises are registered as fish fryers. Several fish fryers have ceased production.

Inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations are well under way with these premises.

British Restaurant.

A report was submitted to the Council on the condition of this property. Immediate first-aid repairs were carried out pending a decision as to the future of this service.

Meat Inspection.

There are seven registered private slaughterhouses. All animals slaughtered are inspected, and the following table summarises the number slaughtered and the percentage of animals found to be diseased:—

TABLE IV.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Goats
Number killed	437	62	44	1,974
Number inspected	437	62	44	1,732
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	32	12	—	39
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.3%	19.3%	—	—	1.9%	3.0%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>							
Whole carcasses condemned	3	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	30	21	—	84
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.8%	33.8%	—	—	05%	4.8%	—
<i>Cysticercosis.</i>							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—

Weight of Meat condemned:—

	Tuberculosis	Other than T.B.
Carcase Meat	1 ton 4 cwts. 1 qr. 12 lbs.	2 cwts. 1 qr. 23 lbs.
Offal	.. .. 19 cwts. 1 qr. 12 lbs.	8 cwts. 1 qr. 9 lbs.

The incidence of tuberculosis in cows slaughtered increased from 18.2% in 1955 to 33.8% in 1956. The sheep infected by tuberculosis has lesions in the glands of the lungs, and these were confirmed as tuberculosis by the laboratory.

Diseased meat is collected by the Department's van and taken to a firm who manufacture fertilizers.

Other Food Inspected.

The following items of food have been surrendered:—

4 tins of Corned Beef	24 lbs.
1 tin of Corned Mutton	6 lbs.
1 tin of Ox Tongue	6 lbs.
11 tins of Meat	16 lbs.
Assorted Fish	31 lbs.
3 tins of Fish	2 lbs. 4½ ozs.
39 tins of Vegetables	33 lbs. 8 ozs.
10 tins of Soup	7 lbs. 12 ozs.
27 tins of Fruit	39 lbs. 2 ozs.
21 tins of Milk	22 lbs. 12 ozs.
 Total ..	 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 20 lbs. 6½ ozs.

Sampling of Food and Drugs.

The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following details of samples taken by his Department:—

Samples taken during the year 1956:—

Milk

Milk, Pasteurised	21
Milk, Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested	11
Milk, Tuberculin Tested	1
Milk, Channel Islands	5
Milk, Sterilised	18
 Total ..	 56

Number of Samples taken	56
Number of Samples Genuine	56

General Foods.

Number of Samples taken	86
Number of Samples Genuine	81
Number of Samples Adulterated	5

Classification:—

Baked Beans in Tomato	Margarine with Butter
Baking Powder	Mint Jelly
Basilicon Ointment	Medicinal Cod Liver Oil
Broad Beans	Olive Oil
Butter	Parsley
Bicarbonate of Soda	Pilchards in Tomato
Cheese	Pickling Spice
Chicken Fillets	Raspberry Vinegar
Condensed Skim Milk	Rhubarb in Syrup
Coffee and Chicory Essense	Roasted Nut Crunch
Cough Mixture	Sage
Cocktail Sausages	Sage and Onion Stuffing
Flour	Sardines in Olive Oil
Cooking Fat	Sauce
Figs	Sausages
Fruit Salad in Syrup	Seed Pearl Tapioca
Glace Cherries	Sherbet Fizzers
Glycerin. B.P.	Shredded Suet
Glycerin, Lemon and Ipecac	Steak and Kidney Pudding
Grape Saline	Stuffed Pork Roll
Gravy Browning	Sugar, Granulated
Ground Almonds	Sugar, Demerara
Halibut Liver Oil, B.P.	Tea
Ice Cream	Tunny Fish in Oil
Lard	Tomatoes (tinned)
Lemon Curd	Wine Jelly
Liquorice Toffee	Vinegar
Scotch Whisky	Zinc and Castor Oil Cream
Margarine	

Detail of Samples below Standard:—

- (1) Two samples of Pork Sausages contained excess Preservative.
- (2) Two Samples of Glycerin, Lemon and Impecac Mixture did not have the proper statement of the proportion of Glycerin present.
- (3) A sample of Medicinal Cod Liver Oil was below the standard of the British Pharmacopaeia for Vitamin A content. The stock was withdrawn from sale.

Action Taken.

- (1) Manufacturers reduced amount of preservative used.
- (2) Labels to be amended on re-printing.
- (3) Old stock withdrawn from sale.

Milk Supplies.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 2 Order, 1954, came into force on the 1st October, 1954.

Results of samples taken by the County Council are forwarded to this office, and all the samples taken satisfied the various tests as follows:—

Type of Milk	Phosphatase Test	Turbidity Test	Methylene Blue Test
Pasteurised	18	—	18
Sterilised	—	14	—
T.T. Pasteurised ..	18	—	18
T.T. Sterilised ..	—	1	—
T.T.C.I. Pasteurised	4	—	4

PART X — ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The Clean Air Act of 1956 following on the Beaver Report has offered and (as the full Act is brought into use) will continue to offer opportunities to improve the air we breathe. Or, should I say, to bring the air back to that clean condition which it once naturally possessed as of right. It is now the duty of elected representatives and officials to examine the powers granted them and to continue the progress from words to deeds.

There are many problems to be met, e.g. (1) How will miners receiving allowance coal fare?; (2) What about those industries which still create a smoke nuisance even when employing the best practicable means? Whilst we are engaged on these problems from a public health aspect, it is essential that research is extended from other directions. The impossible may take a little longer, but unless all industry is involved, our relations with others will be hindered.

Tables V and VI show the records from the three measurement stations Shelfield (nearest part of the area to the industrial Midlands) continues to show the heaviest soot deposit. I would like to operate a daily smoke recorder, but the difficulties of week-end work have not yet been resolved.

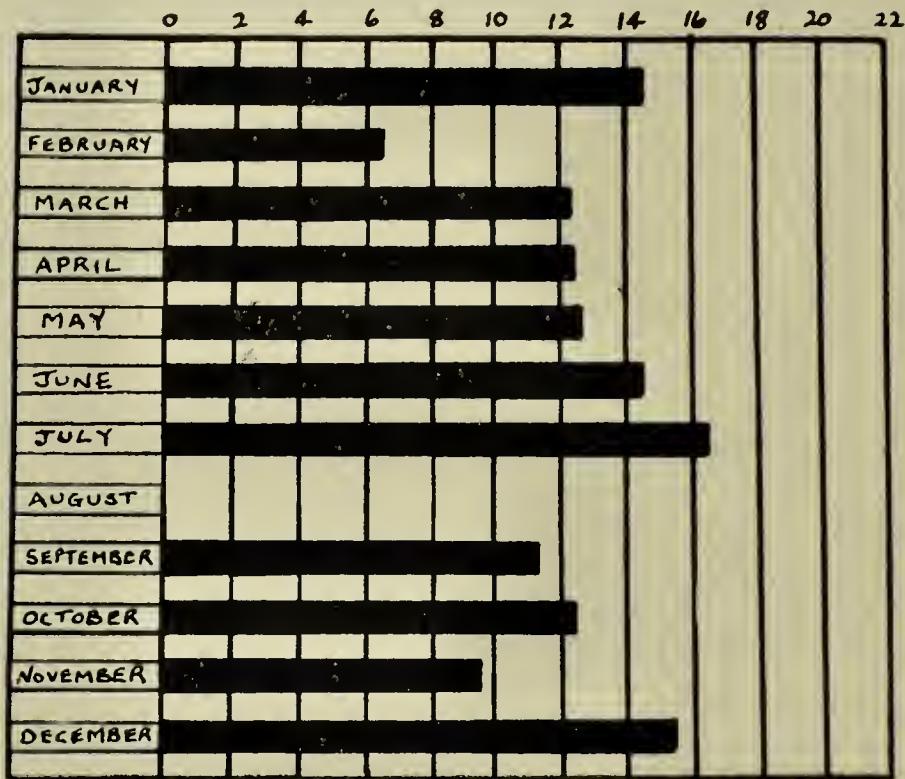
TABLE V.
DEPOSIT GAUGES — RECORDS OF DEPOSITS.
Deposits in tons per square Mile per Month.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	15.12	10.87	17.92
February	6.64	6.30	7.22
March	11.80	*	13.10
April	10.76	12.03	14.77
May	7.99	17.68	*
June	15.49	13.67	15.04
July	13.09	14.67	21.22
August	*	*	*
September	10.82	11.81	11.44
October	10.32	12.87	14.02
November	8.00	10.60	9.70
December	13.39	16.17	16.14
Totals	123.42 (11 mths.)	126.67 (10 mths.)	140.57 (10 mths.)
Monthly Average	11.22	12.66	14.05

* No Reading available.

DEPOSIT GAUGES 1956
SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)

Seasonal Average for whole of District Tons/sq. Mile per month



DEPOSIT GAUGES 1956
DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)

Tons per square Mile per Month

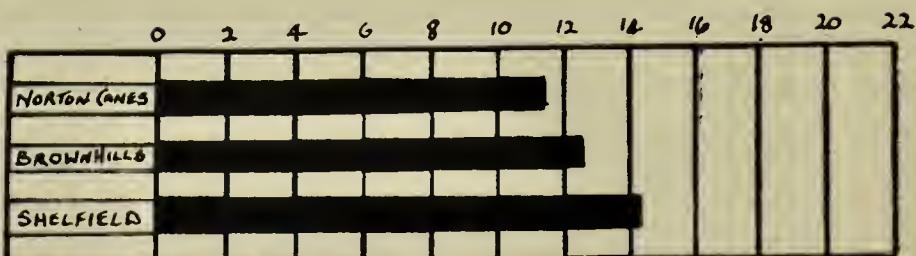


TABLE VI.

LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES — RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION.

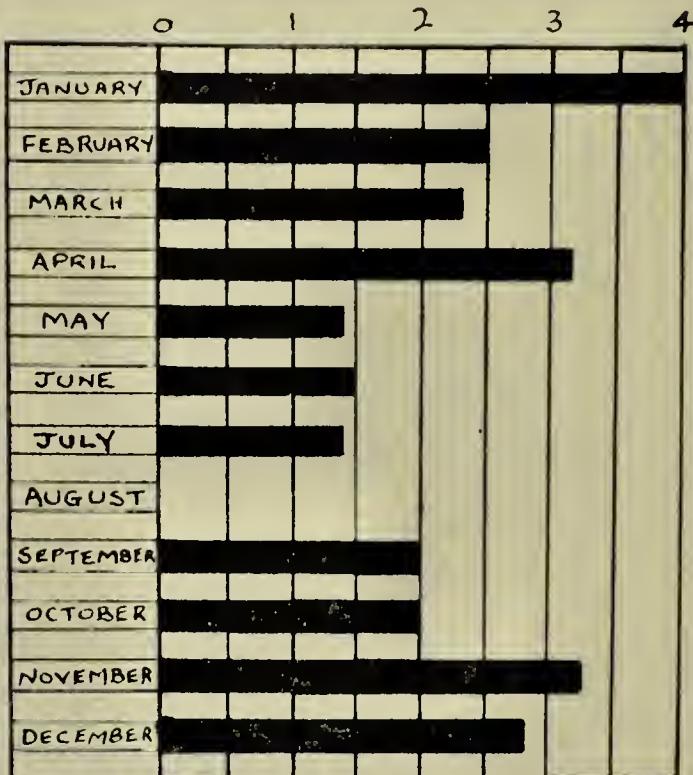
Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected — in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	1.67	6.37	4.02
February	1.51	3.41	2.57
March	*	2.30	2.40
April	2.50	2.70	4.32
May	0.86	1.89	*
June	1.36	2.06	1.09
July	0.75	2.34	1.06
August	*	*	*
September	1.30	2.32	2.18
October	1.26	2.73	2.16
November	1.80	2.70	5.50
December	1.49	4.19	*
Totals	14.50 (10 mths.)	33.01 (11 mths.)	25.30 (9 mths.)
Monthly Average	1.45	3.00	2.81

*No reading available.

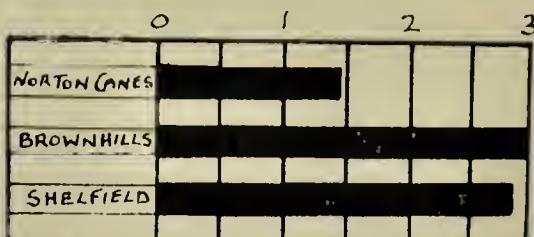
**LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1956 (SULPHUR DIOXIDE)
SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)**

M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./Day



**LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1956 (SULPHUR DIOXIDE)
DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)**

M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./Day



Shops Act, 1950.

The Staffordshire County Council delegated this Council a Local Authority under the Shops Act. Last year all shops were circulated with an extract of the Act, and this has been followed with visits (often in conjunction with visits under the Food Hygiene Regulations) in order to ensure compliance with the requirements. It is a difficult Act to operate, particularly with regard to the closing hours and Sunday opening provisions. Quite frequently we are aware of contraventions, but it is difficult to prove an offence particularly when we have already made ourself well known in connection with work under the Regulations.

Factories.

The Council are progressing with their industrial sites plan. By co-operation with the Engineer and Surveyor, the plans are seen before approval by the Council. It is then possible to discuss heating proposals, processes which might cause a nuisance and the provision of sanitary accommodation.

Inspection of factories have been made as follows:—

(1) (a) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2
(b) Number of inspections made	5
(2) (a) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	53
(b) Inspections made	137
(c) Notices served	4

Cases in which defects were found:—

Sanitary Conveniences:—

Unsuitable or Defective	...	...	3
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	1
Remedied	...	...	4

Rodent Control.

The Council provides a free service for private dwellings. Sewers, sewage works, and refuse tips are treated at regular intervals

Treatments have been carried out as follows:—

	Rats.	Mice.	Total.
Local Authority's Property	...	6*	— 6
Dwelling Houses	...	52	9 61
Business Premises	...	6	5 11
			—
	Total ...	78	—

*Consists of: Refuse Tips (five treatments), and Sewage Works (one treatment).

There was also a sewer treatment carried out.

Mortuary.

A part-time attendant looks after the mortuary. Thirty-two bodies have been received into the mortuary during the year.

The premises and equipment have been well maintained.

CONCLUSION.

May I again express my thanks to the Council for their support and interest in the working of the Department, and to thank the Officers of other Departments for their willing co-operation in matters of mutual interest.

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

